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BOLSOVER CASTLE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE rudiments of this extensive stronghold seem to have been erected by William Peverel, on whom the manor of Bolsover was conferred by William the Conqueror. The castle was built on the western brow of a range of limestone rocks, at a great elevation, and has long served as a land-mark for the surrounding country. It was held, in conjunction with the Peak Castle*, under the same constable or governor. In 1153 the castle and manor were forfeited to the Crown, and in the reign of Richard the First Bolsover was bestowed upon John, earl of Mortaigne, afterwards king of England. In the reign of John, the castle was seized by the disaffected barons, who retained it until 1215, when it was retaken for the King, by William Ferrers, earl of Derby, who, as an acknowledgment for this service, was appointed governor. In the seventeenth year of the reign of John, the castle was fortified against the insurgent barons, and the King appointed Gerard de Furnival to make it his family residence, for the better preservation of the peace of the neighbouring districts.

During several succeeding reigns the castellans were frequently changed; the manor and castle reverting to the Crown on the death or attainder of the occupant. In

the reign of Henry the Eighth, the castles of Bolsover and Hareston were granted to Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk; but they reverted to the crown on the attainder of his son, the second duke. In the fifth of Edward the Sixth, a lease of Bolsover Castle, for fifty years, was granted to Sir John Byron, and two years afterwards the fee-farm was granted to George Talbot, knight, Lord Talbot; and in 1608, George Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, and others, granted a lease of the manor for one thousand years, to Sir Charles Cavendish, knight, for a rent of 10*l.* per annum; and five years after, the same earl sold the manor to Sir Charles, who immediately commenced the erection of the castellated mansion at the north end. The son of Sir Charles, who was so greatly distinguished for his loyalty during the reign of Charles the First, entertained that monarch three times at Bolsover Castle. The expense of the first reception was calculated at 4000*l.*, of the second nearly 15,000*l.* At this entertainment the Queen was present. Lord Clarendon refers to the first entertainment as "such an excess of feasting as had scarce ever been known in England before, and would be still thought very prodigious if the same noble person had not, within a year or two afterwards, made the King and Queen a more

* Described in *Saturday Magazine*, Vol. XXV., p. 41.

stupendous entertainment, which, (God be thanked,) though possibly it might too much whet the appetite of others to excess, no man after those days imitated."

The magnificent host of these entertainments is distinguished in the history of the Civil Wars, as the Earl and Marquess of Newcastle; at the Restoration he was created Duke of Newcastle. The Duchess, in her memoirs of her illustrious consort says, that the King liked the first entertainment so well that "a year after his return out of Scotland, he was pleased to send my lord word, that her majesty the Queen was resolved to make a progress into the northern parts, desiring him to prepare the like entertainment for her majesty, as he had formerly done for him; which my lord did, and endeavoured for it with all possible care and industry, sparing nothing that might add splendour to the feast, which both their majesties were pleased to honour with their presence. Ben Jonson he employed in fitting up such scenes and speeches as he could best devise, and sent for all the gentry of the county to come and wait on their majesties; and, in short, did all that ever he could to render it great, and worthy of their royal acceptance."

The entertainments provided by Ben Jonson were a series of masques: the first was entitled *Love's Welcome* in which the object was merely to introduce, in a kind of anti-masque, a course of *quintain*, performed by the gentlemen of the county, neighbours to the earl, in the guise of rustics, in which much awkwardness was affected, and much real dexterity probably shown. The entertainment, which is for the most part quaint and ludicrous, concludes with an eulogium on Charles, of which the following is a sample:—

. such a king
As men would wish, that knew not how to hope
His like, but seeing him! A prince, that's law
Unto himself; is good for goodness' sake,
And so becomes the rule unto his subjects!
That studies not to seem or to show great,
But be;—not drest for other's eyes and ears,
With visions and false rumours, but makes fame
Wait on his actions, and thence speak his name.

The masque performed before the King and Queen in the following year (30th July 1634), was also called *Love's Welcome*. It commences with a piece sung "by two tenors and a bass," while the King and Queen sat at banquet. After the banquet their majesties were entertained with dialogues and dances of mechanics, in which Ben Jonson vents his spleen against Inigo Jones, the architect, whom he introduces under the appellation of Colonel Vitruvius. A second banquet was then set down before the King and Queen "from the clouds by two loves, Eros and Anteros: one as the King's, the other as the Queen's, differenced by their garlands only: his of white and red roses, the other of lilies interwoven, gold, silver, purple, &c., with a bough of palm in his hand cleft a little at the top; they were both armed and winged; with bows, and quivers, cassocks, breeches, buskins, gloves, and perukes alike. They stood silent awhile, wondering at one another, till at last the lesser of them (Eros) began to speak." Their conversation, which is fantastical and metaphysical, is in rhyme, and is interrupted by Philaethes, who tells them, that should they swear to these refined reasons and proportions of the affections, they "would hardly get credit above a fable, here, in the edge of Derbyshire, the region of all."

The same character concludes the masque, with a complimentary address to their majesties in prose.

During the Civil Wars, the Earl of Newcastle was commander-in-chief of the King's forces in the northern and midland districts, and Bolsover Castle was garrisoned for the King; but it was captured by the parliamentary forces and sold. It was about to be demolished, but Sir Charles Cavendish, younger brother of the Earl of Newcastle, found means to re-purchase it of the parliamentarians, at an advanced price, and thus prevented its total demolition.

In the year 1691, at the death of Henry, the second

duke of Newcastle, without issue, the estates devolved to his sister and co-heiress, Margaret; this lady married John Holles, earl of Clare, who, in 1694, was created Duke of Newcastle. Their only daughter Henrietta, married Edward Harley, earl of Oxford, whose sole heiress, Lady Margaret Cavendish Harley, brought the manor or barony of Bolsover, to William, duke of Portland, the grandfather of the present noble duke.

The ancient Norman structure, erected by William Peverel, has entirely disappeared, and it is supposed that the present structure, a square building of brown stone, occupies its site. This building, erected at different periods, is of considerable extent. The oldest part of the present structure (which is now occupied) was erected by the command of Sir Charles Cavendish, about 1613. The interior of this portion of Bolsover Castle exhibits a curious specimen of the domestic arrangements and accommodations of the age when it was built. The rooms are small, and the walls are wainscotted, and fancifully inlaid and painted. The ceilings of the best apartments are carved and gilt, and the floors are generally of plaster.

The present appearance of Bolsover Castle is singular. Mr. Glover, in his *County History of Derby*, quotes from *The Topographer* a description from which the following account has been slightly abridged.

Some large gates being passed, the visitor soon enters upon the noble terrace, raised high by art as well as by nature, that forms the western side, and overlooking a fruitful valley, commands the park and seat of Sutton, and a rich circle of country. Along this terrace stands the range of building, now reduced to a shell, built by the Duke of Newcastle. Further on is the house built by his father. A broad flight of steps leads to the entrance, on each side of which are porter's lodges. Having passed these we enter into a high inclosed paved court, where a regular front presents itself in the form somewhat of the letter E; viz., two small wings, and a lesser in the centre: in the latter is the porch, and over the door is a kneeling figure of an Hercules, who supports on his shoulders a heavy balcony; two lions sculptured in stone stand by his side; above are the arms of Cavendish and a coronet; and through it a passage leads to the hall, which is not large, but perfectly consonant with the building, being supported in the centre by two pillars, from whence, and from brackets in the side of the wall issue the ramifications of the ribbed roof. The hall is adorned with some old portraits, of no great value, and in the different compartments are painted the labours of Hercules.

Passing through an ante-room we arrive at the dining-room, or as it was formerly called, "the Pillar Parlour," from the circumstance of a circular column of stone in the centre of the room, which supports the ceiling. Round this pillar is the dining table; the walls are wainscotted, and richly ornamented with many old-fashioned devices, partly gilt, in the manner of James the First's time. Emblematical representations of the five senses occupy various compartments round the upper part of the room. The windows, which are made to correspond with the interior decorations, command extensive views; the chimney-piece of this room is very gaudy and expensive: a remark that applies to nearly every room in the house. The staircase is of stone, and leads to a very fine room called the Star-Chamber, rich in all the ornaments of the day, carved and gilt, with painted wainscot, a deep cornice adorned with arms, a rich chimney-piece, fine old furniture, and numerous windows, from whence are magnificent prospects; the walls are decorated with portraits of the twelve Roman emperors. The bed-chambers, &c., are numerous. A long and narrow flight of steps leads to the roof, from whence the view is nearly boundless.

At the head of the first staircase a door opens to the garden wall, which is so broad as to allow three or four

persons to walk abreast, and enjoy the delightful prospect.

On a pillar under the dome in the passage are the following lines, written by the present occupant of the castle, the Rev. W. Tinsley, which convey a just and thoughtful reproof against the silly custom common to so many visitors, of defacing a time-honoured relic, by scratching upon its surface their own obscure names:—

Let not each conceited fribble,
Whose fingers itch his name to scribble,
Dare to pollute these time-tried walls:
Bethink thee, how have passed thy fleeting days!
If void of honour,—undeserving praise;
On thee nor time, nor fame has calls,
Unnoticed mayst thou live,—unnoticed die,
As weeds that spring weeds only to supply.
But you! ye nobly great! ye truly wise!
Though virtue, and not fame, you prize,
Find here fit tablet for a deathless name:
This pile, like you, may well defy
Each storm that howls along the sky;
Its base remains the same,
And proudly on its native rock,
Shall long resist the tempest's shock.

The deficiencies of these rooms were supplied by a range of buildings, now in ruins, standing on a noble terrace, commanding a magnificent prospect in its full extent; the side-walls, and the floor of the apartments, which were entered from the terrace by a grand flight of steps, are all that remain, the roof having long since been taken off. The proposed extent of this structure may be judged of, from the dimensions of the gallery, which is 220 feet in length by 28 wide. The dining-room was 78 by 33 feet, and other apartments on a corresponding scale of magnificence. There were two entrances into this noble range of buildings. Out of the great court, entering the dining-room, was a stately door-case and over the door were cut three coats of arms within the garter. In a scroll was written the family motto—*Cavendo tutus*, (Secure from Caution.)

The designs of Bolsover Castle are said to have been furnished by Huntingdon Smithson, who was sent by the Duke of Newcastle to Italy to collect materials. Walpole says that "many of his drawings were purchased by the late Lord Byron from his descendants, who lived at Bolsover." Mr. Glover says, "The immense pile of building that his genius contributed to produce is gradually, though slowly, wearing away. Trees now grow in some of the apartments, and the ivy creeps along the walls, but there is nothing strikingly picturesque in any part of the structure, which is now in ruins. The best view of Bolsover Castle is from the road, on the north-east entrance into the town, from a place called Iron Cliff. From the Chesterfield road below, a good view of the whole structure may be obtained, but the almost total want of majestic trees and luxuriant foliage, renders it but an indifferent subject for the pencil."

A broad terrace commences at the northern extremity of the castle and extends along the whole part of the building; it then sweeps round the southern side of the village and inclines towards the east. On the right border of this terrace four watch-towers yet remain.

In a small garden adjoining the old residence is a fountain which was formerly celebrated. It stands in an octagon reservoir six feet deep, which received the water from the images and heads placed in the angles and sides. Four of these figures resemble griffins, standing upon semicircular pedestals; they are of stone and well executed; in the other four angles are figures like satyrs, sitting astride on birds, probably eagles; but they are so mutilated that their precise shape cannot be discovered; on the sides are arched niches, containing busts of eight of the Roman emperors, made of alabaster. In the centre is a square rusticated pedestal, with ornaments projecting from the angles. Towards the middle is a cistern, which was to receive the water from the masks on the sides of the pedestal, through which pipes are

conveyed: the sides of this cistern are sculptured; in the centre is a marquess' coronet over the Cavendish crest; on each side of it hangs a bunch of fruit which two birds are pecking at; at the corners are heads of eagles, which spouted out water; on the top of the pedestal is a statue of Venus in alabaster, with drapery in the hand, and one foot on a kind of step, as in the act of getting out of a bath.

In Bolsover Church are many inscriptions dedicated to the Cavendish family; among which the following is remarkable:—

CHARLES CAVENDISH TO HIS SONS.

Sonnes, seek not me among these polished stones,
These only hide part of my flesh and bones,
Which did they nere so neat or proudly dwell,
Will all be dust, and may not make me swell.

Let such as have outlived all praise,
Trust in the tombs their careful friends do raise;
I made my life my monument and yours,
To which there's no material that endures.

Nor yet inscription like it, write but that,
And teache your nephews it to imitate,
It will be matter loude enough to tell,
Not when I died, but how I lived.—Farewell.

THE parts of a medal are the two sides, one whereof is called the *face*, *head*, or *obverse*, the other the *reverse*. On each side is the *area* or *field*, the *rim* or *border*, and the *exergum*, which is beneath the ground whereon the figures represented are placed. On the two sides are distinguished the *type*, and the *inscription* or *legend*. The *type*, or device, is the figure represented; the *legend* is the writing, especially that around the medal, though in the Greek medals the inscription is frequently on the area. What we find in the exergum is, generally, no more than some initial letters, whose meaning we are usually unacquainted with, though sometimes they contain words that may be accounted an inscription. The exergum sometimes contains the date of the coin, expressing in what consulship of the emperor it was struck, as COS. III. upon the reverse of an Antoninus. Sometimes it signifies the place where it was struck, and to which the coin properly belonged, as S. M. AL., for *Signata Moneta Alexandria*, upon the reverse of a Licinius; sometimes the name of a province, the reduction of which the medal is designed to celebrate, as JUDEA on the reverse of a Vespasian. Medals usually have their figures in higher relief than coins.—*Philosophy in Sport*.

THE principle of beauty hath no age,
It looketh forth, e'en though the eye be dim,
The forehead frost-crowned, yea, it looketh forth,
Wherever there doth dwell a tender soul,
That in its chastened cheerfulness would shed
Sweet charity on all whom God hath made.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

THE probability that any particular person shall ever be qualified for the employments to which he is educated, is very different in different occupations. In the greatest part of the mechanic trades success is almost certain, but in the liberal professions it is very uncertain. Put your son apprentice to a shoemaker, there is little doubt of his learning to make a pair of shoes; but send him to study the law, it is at least twenty to one if he ever makes such proficiency as will enable him to live by the business. In a perfectly fair lottery, those who draw the prizes ought to gain all that is lost by those who draw the blanks. In a profession where twenty fail for one that succeeds, that one ought to gain all that should have been gained by the unsuccessful twenty. The counsellor at law, who, perhaps, at near forty years of age begins to make something by his profession, ought to receive the retribution, not only of his own so tedious and expensive education, but also of that of more than twenty others who are never likely to make any thing by it. How extravagant soever the fees of counsellors at law may sometimes appear, their real compensation is never equal to this.—SMITH'S *Wealth of Nations*.

SEA-STAR.

IV

THE COMMON CROSS-FISH (*Uroster rubens*).

THE best known of all Star-Fishes, is doubtless the species above represented, called the Common Cross-Fish. This animal is abundant on most parts of our shores. We have found it in considerable numbers on the Hampshire coast; and it is said to range in greater or less profusion from Devonshire to Zetland.

This animal has generally five rays; but it is sometimes found with one more, or one less than the ordinary number. The rays are grooved beneath, and in each of the avenues thus formed are four rows of suckers. "In consequence of the great number of these singular organs," says Professor Forbes, "the under surface of a living cross-fish presents a sight truly curious and wonderful. Hundreds of worm-like suckers, extending and contracting, coiling and feeling about, give the idea rather of an assemblage of polypi than of being essential parts of one animal. Sensitive in the extreme, if we touch one of those singular tubes, when outstretched, all those in its neighbourhood are thrown into a state of agitation; and when it shrinks from our touch, changing from a lengthy fibre to a little shrunk tubercle, some of its neighbours, as if partaking of its fears, contract themselves in like manner. If we cut one off, however long it may have been at the moment of injury, all its power of extension is instantly gone, and in an inconceivably short time it changes its form, contracting into a little knob-like mass."

The variation in the number of rays, among the star-fish, frequently arises from some injury which the animal has received, and has not yet been able to repair. The common cross-fish has often been met with under such considerable variations of form, that many imaginary species have been formed, which the later researches have swept away. An instance has been given in which no less than four of the rays had been broken off, and partially reproduced, giving from their small development "a most strange and unradiate appearance to the creature, converting it from a star into a comet." This being the case, it is not to be wondered at, that naturalists have sometimes failed to detect this species, in the distorted and singular shapes which it has assumed. From what has been said, it is evident that this animal has the power of reproducing the limbs it has lost.

There are varieties of colour as well as of form, in the common cross-fish. Though generally yellow or orange, they are sometimes purple or red. In one variety the upper surface is of a deep purple colour, the under surface yellow; the arms are in this instance broader than usual, and the skin of a more leathery texture. The larger specimens of the common cross-fish measure about a foot across, but the ordinary size is scarcely nine inches. The eyes of this animal are situated at the extremity of each ray, and are surrounded by a circle of moveable spines. The mouth is also protected by spines of a similar nature.

The cross-fish is reckoned a great enemy to oysters;

and fishermen believe that it is in its battles with them that it so frequently loses its limbs. This fancy is founded on an erroneous idea of the manner in which the star-fish takes its prey. When shell-fish come within the grasp of this animal, it completely enfolds them in its arms, and appears to suck them from their shells by means of its mouth: whereas, according to the fisherman's belief, it insinuates an arm into the oyster's gape, and while seeking to dislodge its enemy, is sometimes caught in the trap, and unable to withdraw the limb; thus being driven to choose between death and the amputation of an important member. But the real mode in which the cross-fish takes its prey has been noted by several observers; and it is affirmed that the animal has the power of projecting the central part of its stomach, in the manner of a proboscis. One of these cross-fish was once perceived to be embracing a *Macra stultorum*, which was pierced with a hole, through which the cross-fish was quietly devouring its prey. Another observer, when the tide was out, and two or three inches of water only remained on the sand, saw balls of these star-fish rolling about. There were five or six in a ball, with their arms interlacing, and in the centres of the balls were *Macra stultorum*, in various states of destruction, but always unable to close their valves, and apparently dead. "Does not the star-fish, in such cases," enquires Professor Forbes, "destroy its food by a poisonous secretion, and thus master the shell-fish? *Uroster rubens* has long been believed to secrete an acrid fluid from its skin, which burns the skin of those who handle it. This story is repeated in works of natural history to the present day; yet I have handled hundreds without having felt any such sensation, and I never met any person who had felt it. Pliny tells us star-fishes can burn all they touch; also Aldrovandus and Albertus, who said their nature was so hot, that they cooked everything they meddled with. Link thought that their eggs had been mistaken for cooked food; and Luid, who was an out-door naturalist, denied the notion altogether. Possibly it arose from confounding them with the stinging meduse, which are also called sea-stars by many, and confounded by the vulgar with star-fishes."

Under the name of "cross-fish" and "five-fingers," the *Uroster rubens* is commonly known on the British coast. In Cornwall, however, it is called Clam, or Cramp. It is in Ireland an object of superstitious dislike, and at Bangor is known by the name of "devil's fingers," or "devil's hand." The children there have a great dread of touching them. Once when a naturalist was engaged drying some star-fishes in his garden, he heard children on the other side of the hedge, asking each other, "What's the gentleman doing with the bad man's hand? Is he ganging to eat the bad man's hands, do ye think?"

The popular idea of the great destruction of oysters committed by this fish, may have had much to do in originating the fear and dislike with which it is viewed. In many places there are regulations prohibiting the dredgers to throw back these animals alive into the sea. At an early period our own Admiralty Court laid penalties on those engaged in the oyster fishery, who did not "tread under their feet, or throw upon the shore, a fish which they call five-fingers, resembling a spur-rowel, because that fish gets into the oysters when they gape, and sucks them out."

The astonishing power possessed by this animal, of throwing off its limbs, is more than equalled by some other star-fishes arranged in the genus *Luidia*. These have the power not only to cast away their arms entire, but to break them voluntarily into little pieces with great rapidity, whenever they are so disposed. "The first time I ever took one of these creatures," says Professor Forbes, "I succeeded in getting it into the boat entire. Never having seen one before, and quite unconscious of its suicidal powers, I spread it out on a rowing-bench: the better to admire its form and colours. On attempting to remove it for preservation, to my horror and disappointment, I found only an assemblage of rejected members,

My conservative endeavours were all neutralized by its destructive exertions, and it is now badly represented in my cabinet by an armless disk, and a diskless arm. Next time I went to dredge on the same spot, determined not to be cheated out of a specimen in such a way a second time, I brought with me a bucket of cold fresh water, to which article star-fishes have a great antipathy. As I expected, a *Luidia* came up in the dredge, a most gorgeous specimen. As it does not generally break up before it is raised above the surface of the sea, I sunk my bucket to a level with the dredge's mouth, and proceeded in the most gentle manner to introduce *Luidia* to the purer element. Whether the cold air was too much for him, or the sight of the bucket too terrific, I know not, but in a moment he proceeded to dissolve his corporation, and at every mesh of the dredge his fragments were seen escaping. In despair I grasped at the largest, and brought up the extremity of an arm with the terminating eye, the spinous eyelid of which opened and closed with something exceedingly like a wink of derision."

The common cross-fish is much less brittle than this, although able, when occasion requires, to lay aside its limbs, and produce new ones. These star-fishes seem to have the power of inhabiting various depths of water, appearing on the shores more abundantly in spring, but retiring to deeper water in summer. They have a very wide geographical distribution, having been seen as far north as Greenland, and also in the Mediterranean, and on the south-western shores of Europe. At a remote period these animals were used in medicine, in the form of a decoction with wine. They were supposed to be useful in hysterical and other diseases, and to prevent epilepsy. The old prescriptions for the use of this animal are to be found in Link's work, already spoken of, but the author neither recommends them as food or medicine, but says that they are useful to man in feeding the fishes which are to feed him.

Without entering into the anatomy of the star-fishes, it may be interesting to state that in many of the species, there exists a multitude of singular organs covering the body, the use of which has not been discovered. Each of these organs consists of a soft stem, bearing on its summit, or (when branched) at the point of each branch, a sort of forceps, not unlike a crab's claw, except that the two blades are equal and similar. When the point of a fine needle is introduced between the blades, which are for the most part open, they instantly close and grasp it with considerable force. These organs cover the surface generally, and form dense groups round the spines. By Muller they were termed *Pedicellariæ*. When the star-fish is alive, these organs are in constant motion, opening and shutting with great activity, but when cut off they seem to lose that power. Respecting these extraordinary organs the author of the *History of British Star-Fishes* remarks, "If they be not distinct animals, as Muller fancied, for what purpose can they serve in the economy of the star-fish? If they be parasites, to what class and order do they belong? What is their nature, what their food? Truly these are puzzling questions. These organs, or creatures, have been known for many years, have been examined and admired by many naturalists and anatomists, have been carefully studied and accurately delineated, and yet we know not what they are. This is but one of the many mysteries of natural history—one of those unaccountable things which we know and know not—of those many facts in nature which teach us how little is man's knowledge, and how wondrous and unsearchable is God's wisdom."

BENEFICENCE is a duty. He who frequently practices it, and sees his benevolent intentions realized, at length comes really to love him to whom he has done good. When therefore, it is said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," it is not meant, that thou shalt love him first, and do good to him in consequence of that love, but thou shalt do good to thy neighbour, and this thy beneficence will engender in thee that love to mankind which is the fulness and consummation of the inclination to do good.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE SYRIAN CHRISTIANS IN INDIA.

I.

At the close of the fifteenth century, when the Portuguese first reached India by the voyage round the Cape of Good Hope, they were much surprised to find a body of Christians, to the number of 200,000, who had been established from the times of the Apostles, in a country which they supposed wholly abandoned to the darkest idolatry. The Portuguese admiral, Pedro Alvares Cabral, in his contests with the sovereign of the country, saw many of these Christians, who naturally expected important benefits from the influence of their fellow Christians, as they were persuaded that those who had braved the dangers, and suffered the privations of a long and perilous voyage, in order to extend, as they professed to do, the empire of their faith, could not be otherwise than pious and benevolent men. Cabral found these native Christians superior to the other natives, both in arts and arms: their soldiers preceded the native nobles in their processions, and although they acknowledge the supremacy of a Hindu prince, they were virtually independent, and governed in all matters by their metropolitan, the Bishop of Angamale, who derived his authority from the Patriarch of Antioch, and exercised spiritual jurisdiction over 1500 churches. When about to return to Portugal, Cabral induced two of these Christians, who were brothers, named Matthias and Joseph, to accompany him to Lisbon, where Matthias, the elder, resided until his death. The younger brother proceeded from Lisbon to Rome, and afterwards to Venice, where an account of the Indian church was published, from information which he furnished.

The discovery of an ancient church in such a remote region naturally excited much attention in Europe; but, unhappily, the superior purity of the Indian doctrine, which, however erroneous, was more free from error than that of the established forms of Europe, produced far more hatred than sympathy in the Christians under the see of Rome, and the newly-discovered body suffered a century of persecutions, which reduced themselves to a state of poverty and humiliation from which they have not yet recovered, exposed the faith of Christ to the contempt of the Hindus, and was terminated only with the forcible expulsion of the Jesuits by the Dutch in 1665.

The Christians of India at the coming of the Portuguese, were a united body under one bishop, using the Syrian ritual, and calling themselves Christians of St. Thomas. An account of their doctrines is given by an Augustinian monk, who was professor of divinity at Goa: he says they did not adore images; they acknowledged but three sacraments, and not seven, like the Roman Catholics; they abhorred auricular confession; they held enormous errors concerning the eucharist, inasmuch that he suspects that the Protestant heretics, who had revived so many forgotten errors, had received their doctrines from them; and they approved the marriage of priests.

Their state at this time is described by La Croze, whose language we shall give as quoted in the *Memoirs of Captain Swanston*, published in the first volume of the *Royal Asiatic Society's Journal*.

"The authority of the Syrian bishops extends to all temporal and spiritual matters. They are the natural judges of all the civil and ecclesiastical causes within their diocese: in virtue of their privileges, which are never contested, the pagan princes and judges have no concern with them, excepting in criminal cases. The Syrians, besides the fixed tribute which they pay to their princes, are required only to furnish a certain number of troops during their wars, which are neither frequent nor of long duration. The diocese of the Syrian bishop contains, at present, more than 1500

churches, and as many towns and villages. This great number must continue to augment, as the priests are not engaged to celibacy, and as there are no monks or nuns amongst them.

"The men always walk armed; some with fuses, of which they know perfectly well the use, others with spears, but the greatest number carry only a naked sword in the right hand, and a shield in the left. They are carefully instructed in the use of arms, from their eighth to their twenty-fifth year, and are excellent hunters and warriors. The more Christians a pagan prince has in his kingdom the more he is feared and esteemed. It is on this account, as well as on that of their fidelity and strict attachment to truth in every thing, that the princes cherish and countenance them so much. In virtue of privileges granted by Sharun Perumal, former emperor of Malabar, the Syrian Christians take precedence of the Nairs, who are the nobility of the country; and they are second in rank only to the Brahmans, for whom the kings themselves manifest an extraordinary veneration. The Christians, pursuant to the laws of the country, are the protectors of the silversmiths, brass-founders, carpenters, and smiths. The pagans who cultivate the palm-trees form a militia under the Christians.

"If a pagan of any of these tribes should receive an insult, he has immediately recourse to the Christians, who procure a suitable satisfaction. The Christians depend directly on the prince or his minister, and not on the provincial governors. If anything is demanded from them contrary to their privileges, the whole unite immediately for general defence. If a pagan strikes one of the Christians, he is put to death on the spot, or forced himself to bear to the church of the place an offering of a gold or silver hand, according to the quality of the person affronted.

"In order to preserve their nobility, the Christians never touch a person of inferior caste, not even a Nair. In the roads or streets they cry out from a distance, in order to receive precedence from passengers; and if any one, even a Nair, should refuse this mark of respect, they are entitled to kill him on the spot. The Nairs, who are the nobility and warriors of Malabar, respect the Syrian Christians very highly, and consider it a great honour to be regarded as their brothers. The privileges of the Syrian Christians are so numerous, that it would be tiresome to describe them all; but a few will be stated, of an important nature, that place them, in some measure, on an equality with their sovereigns. It is permitted only to the Brahmans and to them, to have inclosed porches before their houses; they are authorized to ride and travel on elephants, a distinction accorded only to them and to the heirs of the crown; they sit in presence of the king and his ministers, even on the same carpet, a privilege granted only to ambassadors. The king of Paroor, having wished, during the last century, to extend this privilege to the Nairs, the Christians declared war against him, and obliged him to restore affairs to their former state."

It is not impossible that some little exaggeration may exist in this account, but certainly not so far as to lower the high estimation in which the body was held by the Hindus of the sixteenth century. Their present more humble position affords no point of comparison: so many years of persecution inflicted by Christians had its effect on the Hindu feelings towards Christianity itself. The introduction of many Roman Catholic ceremonies brought divisions into the church, and the conversion of natives of the most abject classes to the same forms, for it went little further, brought a mass of degradation among the Roman Catholics very unfavourable to the whole body; though a marked distinction is to this day maintained between the Syrians and Romans, not only in morals and general character, but in the light in which they are regarded by the pagans.

The history of the Indian church before the arrival of the Portuguese is a matter of great interest, but unfortunately of much uncertainty. Menezes, archbishop of Goa, in the year 1599, procured every book and record of the Syrian Christians to be given up and burned, and marched round the flames chanting hymns of praise to the Virgin Mary for the victory thus gained over heresy. Among other documents, the archives of the metropolitan church of Angamale were destroyed, and with them perished all hope of any other than traditional or incidental history of the early times of the church.

It is agreed on all hands that the Indian church was founded by an individual named Thomas; but whether by St. Thomas the Apostle, in A.D. 51, or by Thomas the disciple of Manes, in A.D. 277, or finally by a rich Armenian merchant named Thomas Cana or Kenai, placed by various authorities from the fourth to the ninth century, is disputed; that the latter aided essentially in the increase of the church there is every probability; but the testimony of Eusebius that the Gospel of St. Matthew existed at Malabar in the close of the second century, is positive as to the establishment of a church there before the time of the second Thomas. Moreover, the concurrent and universal tradition of antiquity assigns India as a part of the province of St. Thomas the Apostle, and the early and authentic records of the Greek, Latin, and Syrian churches, assert that he preached the Gospel at Meliapore, a place four or five miles south of Madras, and that he suffered martyrdom there. The Indian Christians themselves state that St. Thomas founded their church in the middle of the first century, and they generally concur in the following narrative:—That St. Thomas, after preaching in Arabia, proceeded by sea to India, where he landed at Cranganor on the western coast, the seat of the king of the country, and in the neighbourhood of one of those little colonies of Jews, whose descendants still inhabit the same spot: that he preached there and converted many; that the faith extended to Parúr, in the interior, where there is still a church, said to be the oldest in India, and dedicated to him; thence to Quilon, the Calliana of Cosmas, who in the beginning of the sixth century found a bishop there ordained in Persia; and to various smaller states in the south. In the whole he is said to have founded seven churches, and to have ordained two priests, converts from Namburi families. They further state that having firmly established his little diocese in the peninsula, St. Thomas crossed to the eastern coast, to Meliapore near Madras, where he preached with much success, and baptized many influential persons, among others, the governor of the place; that this excited the jealousy of the Brahmans, two of whom, more furious than the others, excited the people to such a pitch of rage against the saint, that they overwhelmed him with stones; and that one of these Brahmans, observing some signs of life remaining in his mangled body, drove a lance through it. One account makes St. Thomas first land at Meliapore, then proceed to the western coast, and return at length to die at Meliapore. The origin of this error is likely to have been the similarity of the words Meliapore, and Malabar, the designation of the western coast.

Some marvellous stories were added to the narrative of the martyrdom by the Portuguese, who, in 1551, built two churches at Meliapore, one called the Church of the Resurrection on "Little Mount," six miles from Madras, over a cave where they say St. Thomas lay hid for three days when sought after by his assassins, and where they show a hollow filled with water which the saint commanded to issue from the dry rock, and the impression of his foot, sixteen inches long, which he made by stamping on the hard stone. The other church, dedicated to "Our Lady of the Mount," was built two miles farther on a larger mount, whither the saint fled from the cave, and where he received the

crown of martyrdom. They also showed a miraculous cross, which used to perform a miracle every year, eight days before Christmas, until it was stopped by the vicinity of the English. These stories have induced many persons to discredit the native tradition, about which there is nothing improbable, but every reason to believe authentic in all essential particulars.

THE ART OF READING.

VIII. DESCRIPTION OF THE PHONIC METHOD.

(Concluded.)

IN our last article we described the mode of teaching the long vowel sounds to children; the next step in the Phonic method is to introduce the sounds of consonants, beginning with those which are the most easily pronounced. The definition of a consonant has been generally given as "a letter that cannot be sounded without the aid of a vowel," but the teacher on this system must discard that definition as incorrect, and proceed to teach the real *sounds* (not the names) which belong to consonants, and which are easily separable from vowel sounds. For instance, the real sound of the consonant *m* is given without opening the lips, and is merely a prolonged tone or murmur, and the sounds of *n* and *l* are equally simple, and equally easy of combination with vowels. These three sounds form the first lesson on consonants, each being illustrated by a picture. In the next lesson these three sounds are combined with the long vowel sounds already learned, and thus a few words are produced without the intervention of a spelling lesson. The previous lessons have not admitted of the formation of reading exercises; but the present lesson affords an opportunity for collecting together a few words which form the subject of the first Wall Tablet. The use of these Wall Tablets is, that after each lesson the class may be at once referred to the words they have just learned, which are arranged, together with those learned in previous lessons, in sentences or paragraphs printed in large type, which on mastering their lesson they will be able to read at sight. The Wall Tablets are only required while the pupils are going through the *First Phonic Reading Book*. They are then sufficiently advanced to read the longer exercises of the *Second Phonic Reading Book*, without such help. In private tuition these Wall Tablets may also be dispensed with; as the exercises are printed in full at the end of each lesson.

Lesson V. of the *First Phonic Reading Books* teaches the sound of the letter *r*, a sound that is greatly slurred over by most English speakers, and which in some cases, for want of early exercise, persons are wholly unable to pronounce. It also gives the sounds of *y* and *w*, when they occur at the beginning of syllables, and consequently have the nature of consonants. The picture of a *rope* is used in teaching the sound of *r*, and pictures of a *yew* tree and of the *waves* of the sea, illustrate the two other sounds. The further development of the sounds now acquired, and the introduction of exercises on them, occupy two or three succeeding lessons. The ninth lesson closes the course of instruction on what are called tone consonants, and after some recapitulatory exercises, the teacher now brings forward another class of consonants, which if we can examine them without reference to the names of the letters, we find to be little more than hard breathings. The letters *h*, *f*, *v*, *s* and *z*, as sounded in the words *hoof*, *file*, *vine*, *sole*, and *zebra*, cause little more than a hissing of the breath in utterance, but are sufficiently distinct to be learned as separate sounds. The exercising of children in giving the sound of *h*, before they know the name of the letter, is one of the best means ever devised for correcting their common fault of omitting the sound of that letter, or giving it in the wrong place.

The combination of the sounds taught in this lesson with those that have gone before, the introduction of one or two other sounds of this class, and the extension of the exercises accordingly, occupy the teacher and his class up to the fifteenth lesson, when the third and last class of consonants is presented. These are *p*, *b*, *t*, *d*, *k*, and *g*, requiring a sudden emission of the breath in utterance, and therefore called bursting sounds. Each sound is illustrated by a picture as before.

It will not be necessary to follow the order of these lessons further as it relates to the *First Phonic Reading Book*. In the explanatory Notes to that book, we find the following allusion to some of the difficulties attendant on the formation of reading exercises for the early lessons.

The formation of these exercises has been attended with difficulties which can be appreciated only by considering the peculiar arrangement of words under the Phonic method, which, while it is admirably adapted to the advancement of the pupil, renders somewhat arduous the task of forming sentences from the lessons. For example:—the short vowel sounds not being admissible in the *First Phonic Reading Book*, we are altogether deprived of the use of the verb *to have* in all its tenses; and also of the most useful parts of the verb *to be*. We are likewise obliged to dispense with the prepositions *of*, *with*, *at*, *up*, *in*, *into*, *from*, *on*, *near*, *over*, *above*, *among*, &c., the conjunctions *and*, *but*, *as*, *if*, *then*, *since*, *because*, *lest*, *unless*, *yet*, *either*, *neither*, &c., the pronouns *us*, *your*, *him*, *his*, *her*, *it*, *they*, *theirs*, *them*, *which*, *what*, *each*, *every*, *this*, *that*, *some*, *other*, *any*, *such*, *none*, and the useful verbs *can*, *shall*, *will*, *must*, *ought*, *could*, *would*, *should*, *get*, *got*, *let*, *put*, &c.

If therefore we have succeeded in producing sentences which are at least free from inaccuracies, and which afford a competent exercise of the newly-acquired powers of the pupils, we feel that we have accomplished as much as the difficult nature of the task would permit us to expect. A more complete adaptation of the exercises to subjects connected with the progress of the pupils in knowledge may be attained in the subsequent parts of the course.

The expectation to which the closing remark would lead, is not disappointed; for on turning to the *Second Phonic Reading Book*, we observe a great improvement in the style of the exercises, consequent on the admission of the short vowel sounds, and their union with consonants. Still the exclusion of all words in which two consonant sounds follow each other in the same syllable prevents the use of so many common words, that much care must have been bestowed on these exercises to make them so readable as the following, which occurs among others equally useful, and equally free from the stiffness which might have been looked for in fettered language. The absence of the little word *and* must of itself have exercised the patience of the framer of these exercises in no small degree.

THE MAGPIE.

The magpie is familiar with any who will feed or notice him.

He is very active as well as very noisy.

If tamed he will imitate the tones of the human voice, chattering merrily to those who feed or notice him.

He has a cunning look as well as a chattering tongue.

The magpie chooses a very thick bush to live in; but he does not go far out of the village. The note of the magpie is generally a sign that a cottage is nigh.

The magpie feeds on eggs, chickens, leverets, fish, carrion, or garbage; nothing seems to come amiss to his appetite. If he discover a sickly animal, he will hover about until it dies, or he will attack it as it is dying.

The magpie also pilfers anything he can carry, altho' it is not fit for food. He will take up anything that shines or that happens to take his fancy: he has sometimes made off with silver coins or bits of linen or lace. If not ill-used, he comes into the house, making it his business to look about every room or passage: he will pick up anything that is lying about, but he is not so civil as to give it back to its owner. He no sooner gets it within his bill than he takes wing, going to his home in the bush, or perhaps hiding his booty by pushing it into a hole, until it is entirely out of

sight; then he goes back to the house to pilfer something more as soon as he can.

Magpies meet together in companies: their meetings are called by villagers *folk-motes*. If there is an even number of magpies, it is considered a sign of good luck; but if a solitary magpie is seen sitting alone at the time that the other magpies are met together, it is supposed to be a sign of bad luck to the village or to the house.

The poor magpies, however, have nothing to do with good luck or bad luck. There is no such thing as luck. All things are ordered by God.

In looking through this exercise, it is easy to perceive that the writer would have been glad of the words *nest, bird, and, &c.*, with which he might have improved several of the sentences; but in these words two consonants follow each other in the same syllable, and are both sounded, therefore such words are reserved to a later period in the phonic arrangement. Several words in the above exercise might at first sight be supposed to have been admitted without regard to the rule—for example, the words *chattering, sign, chicken, sickly, folk*, and others, where two consonants follow each other in the same syllable. But in every case it will be found that these consonants express but one sound. The *ch* in *chatter* or *chicken*, forms only one sound, and has been so taught, in previous lessons: the same may be said of the *ck* in *sickly*; and the *lk* in *folk*. The only real exception is in the final *s* in *chickens, leverets, &c.*, and this was long ago admitted in the case of the plural of nouns, and the present tense of verbs, and the use of it explained.

The great advantage of the exercises in these books is that they are so constructed as to dwell upon, and reiterate the words which the pupil has just been learning, and that they do not contain one sound with which he is unacquainted. He does not come to the task as a difficult one in which he has to spell out new words, but as truly an exercise of what he already knows. It is in this sense that we may understand the testimony lately received from a clergyman, who though preferring to begin with the alphabet according to the old plan, yet says, "Independently of the phonic peculiarities, these are the best and most progressive reading books I have ever met with, and as such, they are constantly in use in my family."

To give another instance of the skilful management of the exercises, we quote the following history of leeches, as being, perhaps, not without some information for older readers than those for whom it was designed. The absence of some useful words, especially of the conjunction *and*, is still observable; but perhaps the result is beneficial rather than otherwise by causing a greater repetition of such words as have been made the subject of recent lessons. With this specimen of the *Second Phonic Reading Book* we must close our notice of the system, wishing it all due success, and hoping, at some future day, when prejudices shall have gradually died away, to see the tasks of children made less irksome by its means. One word as to the type employed in the Books, Tablets, and Reading Frame, used in this method. It is remarkably beautiful and distinct, and the whole of it has, we understand, been cast expressly for this purpose.

THE LEECH.

If a person is ill the doctor sometimes orders leeches. I will tell you something about them.

The leech which the doctor orders is called the medicinal leech. It is common in Europe. It lives in lakes, pools, or bogs.

The body of the leech is composed of about ninety rings. The mouth is furnished with cutting teeth. The leech has also a sucker; with this sucker it can fix tightly to any thing.

This animal has no lungs, but its body is furnished with pores.

The leech is a parasite, living on other animals. It gets its food by sucking the bodies of fishes or other animals inhabiting the waters.

In winter the leech retires to deep waters, seeking shelter in the mud at the bottom; but in summer it delights in shallow pools, basking in the sun.

The leech makes a case or cocoon for its eggs. This it deposits in the mud of the pool. There are sometimes as many as thirteen leeches in this cocoon.

Men sometimes dig these cocoons out of the muddy pools: then put them in sheets of water. As soon as the leeches come out of the cocoons the men feed them until the animals are of the right size for the market.

But there is another method of taking leeches. The leech-fisher goes into the pool with naked legs. The leeches soon come to fix on his legs or feet as he moves along in the mud. As he feels the bite of these animals he takes them off one by one. He also gathers all that he can meet with among the roots of the bull-rushes or weeds, or under the moss. In this manner he can sometimes get as many as ten dozen leeches in five or six hours. As he takes them he puts them into a bag.

Sometimes the fisher, as he wades about in the pool, lashes the surface of the water with a pole to make the leeches rise up; or he will take them with a net made of rushes.

Sometimes the leech-fisher is seen with a harpoon depositing food for the leeches in order to get a number of them together. As soon as he sees them all feeding he gathers them into a vessel half full of water.

At the time of thunder leeches seem to be much agitated, rising to the surface of the water; this is therefore considered as a good time for looking after them.

The life of the leech-fisher is an unwholesome one. He is exposed to the noisome fogs that hang over the morass or bog; he is in the water for many hours together, sometimes up to his knees in the pool, or if the leeches are gone to deeper water he wades about with the water up to his chin. No wonder that the leech-fisher has a pale face, or that he is often ill in getting that which is to make others well.

Leeches are packed up for the market in boxes or tubs or barrels furnished with a canvas cover.

A WINTER'S MORNING.

BUT let us leave the warm and cheerful house,
To view the bleak and dreary scene without,
And mark the dawning of a winter-day.
The morning vapour rests upon the heights
Lurid and red, while growing gradual shades
Of pale and sickly light spread o'er the sky.
Then slowly from behind the southern hills
Enlarged and ruddy comes the rising Sun,
Shooting askance the hoary waste his beams,
That gild the brow of every ridgy bank,
And deepen every valley with a shade.
The crusted window of each scattered cot,
The icicles that fringe the thatched roof,
The new-swept slide upon the frozen pool,
All keenly glance, new kindled with his rays;
And even the rugged-faced face of scowling winter
Looks somewhat gay. But only for a time
He shows his glory to the brightening earth,
Then hides his face behind a sullen cloud.

The birds now quit their holes and lurking-sheds,
Most mute and melancholy, where through night,
All nestling close to keep each other warm,
In downy sleep they had forgot their hardships;
But not to chant and carol in the air,
Or lightly swing upon some waving bough,
And merrily return each other's notes.
No; silently they hop from bush to bush;
Can find no seeds to stop their craving want;
Then bend their flight to the low, smoking cot,
Chirp on the roof, or at the window peck,
To tell their wants to those who lodge within.
The poor lark hare flies homeward to his den,
But little burden'd with his nightly meal
Of withered coleworts from the farmer's garden;
A wretched, scanty portion, snatched in fear:
And fearful creatures, forced abroad by hunger,
Are now to every enemy a prey.—BAILLIE.